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Examiner DeBarry:

In advance of our telephonic interview scheduled for tomorrow at 10:00, below I provide three proposed amended claims to facilitate discussion. It is my view that the prior art Brines publication does not teach every element of these claims. Regarding claims 1 and 13, Brines does not teach applying EPO to a resected liver either topically (claim 1) or systemically (claim 13). Similarly, Brines does not teach topical application of EPO to a skin graft to heal burn wounds. I look forward to tomorrow's discussion.

Regards,

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1. (Proposed amended claim) A method for promoting structural tissue regeneration of a resected liver following surgical liver resection in an individual having a benign or malignant liver tumor, the method comprising topically administering to said resected liver erythropoietin (EPO), EMP, or novel erythropoiesis stimulating protein (NESP).

13. (Proposed amended claim) A method for promoting structural tissue regeneration of a resected liver following surgical liver resection in an individual having a benign or malignant liver tumor, the method comprising systemically administering to said individual erythropoietin (EPO), EMP, or novel erythropoiesis stimulating protein (NESP).

36. (Proposed amended claim) A method for healing of burn wounds in an individual using a skin graft without the occurrence of scarring, the method comprising topically applying to said skin graft EPO, EMP, or NESP.